

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

February 2, 2004

In re Application of: Mark E. Poole
Serial No. 09/818,470
Filed: March 28, 2001
For: APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING AND SEALING DUCT
SECTIONS
Examiner: Aaron M. Dunwoody
Art Unit: 3679
Confirmation Number: 9560
Attorney Docket No.: SFI-1

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF
PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

REMARKS

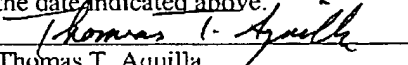
The Office Action of October 23, 2003, has been reviewed and its contents carefully noted. Reconsideration of this case is earnestly requested. Claims 1-7 remain in this case.

The Examiner's attention also is drawn to the fact that, accompanying this Amendment is Applicant's Petition for Extension of Time of One (1) Month and authorization to withdraw the required fee from the attorney's deposit account.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's statement that claim 5 is allowed.

Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION	
FACSIMILE NO: <u>703-872-9306</u>	DATE: <u>2/2/2004</u>
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, to the facsimile number and on the date indicated above.	
 Thomas T. Aquilla	